

# ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (EA/EIS)

## Part I. Proposed Action Description

Applicant/Contact Name & Address: Stillwater Mining Company, PO Box 1330 Columbus, MT 59019; USDA Forest Service 6811 US Hwy 212 Red Lodge, MT 59068

Type of Action: Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 43C 30109577

Location Affected by Action: Section 1, T5S R13E, Sweet Grass County, Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, and 16, T5S R14E, Sweet Grass County

Narrative Summary of Proposed Action: The Applicant proposes to divert water from Iron Creek using a pump along a transitory point of diversion from NESESE Section 8 to NWNENW Section 7, T5S, R14E, Sweet Grass County from May 1 to November 31. The Applicant proposes to pump up to 75 GPM and up to 70.5 AF volume for industrial use. The Applicant proposes to use up to three drill rigs for mineral exploration along and adjacent to Iron Creek at any one time. Each drill rig requires a flow rate of 25 GPM.

## Part II. Existing Environmental Review Information

Title: Environmental Assessment for Stillwater Mining Company's Plan of Operations for Mineral Exploration, Iron Creek and West Fork of the Stillwater River

Publication Date: January, 2017

Lead Agency: United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Location Where Interested Parties Can View or Obtain the Document:

[http://a123.g.akamai.net/7/123/11558/abc123/forestservice.download.akamai.com/11558/www/nepa/103750\\_FSPLT3\\_3935684.pdf](http://a123.g.akamai.net/7/123/11558/abc123/forestservice.download.akamai.com/11558/www/nepa/103750_FSPLT3_3935684.pdf)

## Part III. Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

- ☐\_X\_ Yes ☐\_No Does the existing environmental review cover an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action?
- ☐\_X\_ Yes ☐\_No Is the information in the existing environmental review accurate and clearly presented?
- ☐\_X\_ Yes ☐\_No Is the information in the existing environmental review applicable to the action being considered?
- ☐\_X\_ Yes ☐\_No Were all appropriate Agencies consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review?
- ☐\_X\_ Yes ☐\_No Were alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort?
- ☐\_X\_ Yes ☐\_No Have all of the impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review?
- ☐\_X\_ Yes ☐\_No If the existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action, will they be mitigated below the level of significance?

## Part IV. Conclusion

If the answers to ALL of the questions listed above are "Yes", the existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities.

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_X\_ Based on the criteria evaluated in the existing EA, is an EIS required?

Name: Mark Elison

Title: Hydrologist

Date: 3/15/2017

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_